THE

Bloody Innkeeper,

OR

Sad and Barbarous News from

GLOCESTER-SHIRE:

BEING

A True Relation how the Bodies of seven Men and Women were found Murthered in a Garden belonging to a House in *Patley* near *Glocester.*

With the strange and miraculous manner how the same was discovered by a Smith that lately took the House, digging to set up his Anvil, and finding a Knife in one of the Bodies.

Nec Hospes ab Hospite Tutus.

London, Printed with Allowance, 1675.

fore the Law passes on him, had remained some years in this little House, bee found himself so well furnisht with money, that he resolves to take a greater, and accordingly setled himself very Comodiously and compleatly in all respects in a large Inn near the Citty of *Glocester*, sometime after which a Smith happening to hire the said house he went out off for the conveniency of his Trade, was forced to erect a small shed, to serve as a shop on part of the Garden belonging thereunto, and digging pretty deep to set up his Anvil, which requires a good foundation that it might stand fixt and steady, he found the bones and part of the flesh of a man buried there, the sight whereof strangly surprized and affrighted him, and caused him to acquaint his Neighbours therewith, who upon serious consultation about it, advized him to dig further thereabouts; offering him their assistance therein, which being done, they in short time found the Skeletons or Bones of seven severall persons, the bodies or flesh of them were much consumed, yet some of them had certain remnants of woollen and linen Garments remaining, whereby it might be perceived that they were buried there in their Cloaths.

Strangly various were the Peoples Censures and apprehensions of this sad accident, as not knowing on whom to fix the guilt of so much

Inhumane

Inhumane Barbarousness, for it plainly appeared that these persons must be Murthered and Interred there for concealment, at last just Heaven, whose purer eyes could not suffer such villany to escape unpunisht, wonderfully opened a way to the discovery, for as they were viewing more narrowly the bones and corps, and removing the earth and rubbish to behold them the plainer, they perceived a Knife Stuck in by the Blade bone of one of their breasts, which being taken up and scoured from the rust, they found thereon engraven the name of a man who owned it, which together with divers other Circumstances being considered, the Neighbourhood had violent suspitions of him who had been the Author of all these horrid Murthers.

FINIS.

most true, and most Barbarous, the Circumstances being thus.

Some years ago a person that had served as a Soldier in *Cromwels* Troop, being after our present Soveraignes most happy restoration, had put a Period to the necessity of those chargable standing forces disbanded, and having Married a Scotch woman, whilst he resided in that Nation, and brought her with him into *England*, they took a small House scituated in a Village called *Purley* on the Road between *Glocester* and *Bristol*, and therein sold Drink, and Entertained Passengers and Travellers, that had occasion to lye there as a little Inn, and particularly his Wife being a Scot as aforesaid, divers Persons of that Nation who usually Travel from thence into *England* with Scotch Cloath and other commodities, resorted thither, and chose rather to Lodg there than elsewhere, for her sake, as being their Countrywoman;

But their Custome being but now and then for a night or two, and their Trade otherwise very small and inconsiderable, their House standing in a place out of the way, where no great Ghests could be expected, all their Neighbours concluded that if they could but live, and keep even with the world, it was as much as they could hope for, but contrary to all expectations, they began to thrive amain, furnishing their

their house rarely well with all sorts of Houshold goods, and convenient Utensils, and having mony on all occasions to lend his Neighbours at a pinch, which all that knew them much admired at, as being sensible that very few years before, when they first came thither, they were very poor and necessitous, and which way they should increase their stock so well, they could not Imagin, for the Man being of a fair plausible carriage, and making large pretences of honesty and just dealing, they had not the least suspition or mistrust of the unhappy truth, that this spring tide of Fortune was swel'd with blood, and his Gaines raked together with the Barbarous hands of Robbery and Murther.

Indeed Fortune is only the Imaginary Goddess of fools, there is nothing really happens without its means and propper causes, when we see the hand move on a Dyal, reason tells us there must be some wheels and springs within (though unseen) which produce that motion: *Solomon* assures us that he that is hastily rich, is really innocent, those that from nothing on a sudden heap up great estates, without any visible trade or way to obtain them, give us grounds to suspect they take some indirect courses, and tread by-paths no way justifiable.

After this person whose name I forbare, meerly that I may not seem to prejudice him, before

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BEING

A true Relation how the Bodies of ſeven Men and Women, were found Murthered in a Garden belonging to a houſe in Putley *near* Glocester.

I Shall not, like too many of our modern Pamphleteers, nauſeate the Reader with a tedious, or Impertinent Preamble, let it herefore (to awake his attention) ſuffice to ſay, hat the ſad and Tragical Relation, I am hear o give him, is no leſs remarkable for its cer-inty, then its Bloody Cruelty, and equally

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